

DK-99-25

ORIGINAL

From: Andrew F. Moody <amood01@emory.edu>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Wed, Jul 21, 1999 3:59 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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AUG 02 1999

This email was submitted by Andrew F. Moody (amood01@emory.edu)
on Wednesday, July 21, 1999 at 14:59:41

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

EX PARTE OR LATE FILING

comments: I know little about the insides of the commercial radio business, but based on what I have heard by listening to FM radio while driving back and forth across the eastern half of the United States, I think it is safe to say that our country's airwaves reek of a bland sameness, no matter where one tunes in. Stations across the country have the same (limited) formats, the same (limited) playlists, and even (disturbingly) the same slogans (e.g. "good times, great oldies"). Given the diversity that exists within this country, there seems no need for such circumstances. The proliferation of interesting college stations proves that there is sufficient enthusiasm throughout the country for more varied formats, etc., and so it seems that the only thing keeping U.S. radio as boring as it is is its dominance by rich and powerful corporate interests who would prefer to play things safe than to actually offer us a worthwhile cultural window. For this reason I support the above!

!
e measure.

address: Box 23011

address2: Emory University

city: Atlanta

state: GA

zip: 30322

Submit: Send to FCC

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman
Commissioner Gloria Tristani
Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth

Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
455 Twelfth Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition
cc: Americans for Radio Diversity

MM Docket No. 99-25
Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

No. of Copies rec'd CHL
List ABCDE

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,

We are writing to commend you and the Federal Communications Commission for taking action on an issue of great importance to us - ending the 21-year ban on community access to the airwaves. We have become increasingly concerned about the growing concentration of the media in our country and are pleased that the Commission is responding to public outcry to increase opportunities for local communities to use our radio airwaves.

One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves, not merely to be the recipients of what a handful of other people tell them. It is a nonnegotiable component of our right to a free press and free speech.

Radio is perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well-suited to cover community issues and local culture. Unfortunately, over the past three years the U.S. radio broadcasting industry has experienced an unprecedented wave of consolidation and mergers. As a result, the electronic medium best suited to inexpensive, local programming has become arguably the most regimented and centralized of our major media. Even a multimillionaire would have trouble entering the radio broadcasting industry today, because economies of scale (permitted by deregulation) demand that a firm own numerous stations in several markets to be even remotely competitive. As for the person of average means, their lot is limited to being a passive consumer of an increasingly monopolistic industry that has less and less competitive pressure to heed the diverse, local needs of listeners. And, for poor people and others who are considered unimportant to the advertising community, radio increasingly has little to offer. Again, the great tragedy of this situation is that radio is the ideal medium to provide an accessible local service for democratic communications of interest and value to the entire population.

Awarding licenses for new low power FM radio stations would empower local communities with a new public forum to express its many voices, cultures, ideas, and needs. Low power radio stations would create much needed public fora for a variety of groups - including community activists, youth, ethnic and linguistic minorities, the religious community, local artists and cultural associations - and provide a forum for dialogue and debate about important local and public interest issues. These kinds of stations would strengthen community identity in urban neighborhoods, rural towns and other communities which are currently too small to win attention from "mainstream", profit-driven media.

The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power radio service would have wide public support. The tremendous demand for microradio is demonstrated by the emergence of a national Free Radio Movement, widespread civil disobedience, constitutional challenges of the Commission's

aggressively enforced 21-year ban, as well as the proliferation of unlicensed community radio stations supported by local government, whose operators broadcast at the risk of financial losses, seizure of property, arrest, and in some cases, imprisonment.

In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their communities. In support with the efforts of the Microradio Empowerment Coalition (mec@tao.ca) and Americans for Radio Diversity (ard@radparker.com), we urge you to legalize microradio in order to benefit non-commercial community groups whose interest in microradio is to communicate, to educate, and to inform, not to make money. We are confident you agree that broad citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

To support this vision, we urge you to legalize microradio with the following concerns in mind:

1. Microradio licenses should be awarded for non-commercial use only. The current radio spectrum is dominated by commercial media. LPFM licenses should go to non-commercial community groups who want to use radio to communicate with their neighbors, not make profit from them.
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communicate is protected by the Constitution and the FCC's mandate. The right to make money through local radio is not a protection under the FCC's mandate.

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12. Licensing fees should be affordable to all communities.

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Peter Franck, San Francisco
Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.
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Howard Zinn--Professor Emeritus, Boston University
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Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press
Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

ORIGINAL

From: Pete Burns <maximumpete@prodigy.net>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Fri, Jul 23, 1999 5:19 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Pete Burns (maximumpete@prodigy.net)
on Friday, July 23, 1999 at 16:19:57

comments: Radio should be freedom. Freedom is not saying or doing anything but flexibility. Top 40 is not a freedom and does not require any social expression.

address: 1921 Arlington Ave.

city: Des Moines

state: Iowa

zip: 50314

Submit: Send to FCC

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman
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Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth

Federal Communications Commission
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cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore
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MM Docket No. 99-25

Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

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Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press

Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert

Barbara Ehrenreich--Author

Gloria Steinem--Ms.

Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist

Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

ORIGINAL

From: Pro Search <prsrch@silcom.com>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K5DOM....
Date: Wed, Jul 21, 1999 3:42 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,
Commissioner Gloria Tristani,
Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554
cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton Vice President Al Gore,
Bill Bradley, and George Bush, Jr.
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego
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Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=

name=Kirk Miller
street=1202 Miramonte Dr.
city=Santa Barbara
state=CA
zip=93101
=Send to FCC

ORIGINAL

From: Gary J Miller <gmiller@black-hole.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Fri, Jul 23, 1999 9:07 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

DK-99-25

This email was submitted by Gary J Miller (gmiller@black-hole.com)
on Friday, July 23, 1999 at 20:07:22

comments: Please do not forget the people that you serve and their need for information and local broadcasting. It's dangerous for a democracy to have so many radio stations owned by just a few corporations. We need small stations also.

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address: 2946 Hy 10 NE

address2: 2946 Hy 10 NE

city: Mounds View

state: Mn

zip: 55112-4076

Submit: Send to FCC

AUG 02 1999

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman
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Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert

Barbara Ehrenreich--Author

Gloria Steinem--Ms.

Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist

Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

ORIGINAL

From: Christopher R. Moon <chrismoon@prodigy.net>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Fri, Jul 23, 1999 8:38 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Christopher R. Moon (chrismoon@prodigy.net)
on Friday, July 23, 1999 at 19:38:28

comments: When the laws changed allowing greater corporate ownership of radio stations, the dynamics of community radio changed. By adopting the above mentioned points, there can start a new era in radio. These are changes that can address the desires of larger groups, such as corporate radio does, and of smaller, no less important groups. This allows the best of both worlds and a freedom of expression that is intrinsically valuable. It is a measure well worth taking.

address: 1921 Arlington Ave. Apt B

city: Des Moines

state: IA

zip: 50314

Submit: Send to FCC

RECEIVED

AUG 02 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman
Commissioner Gloria Tristani
Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth

Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
455 Twelfth Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition
cc: Americans for Radio Diversity

MM Docket No. 99-25
Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,

We are writing to commend you and the Federal Communications Commission for taking action on an issue of great importance to us - ending the 21-year ban on community access to the airwaves. We have become increasingly concerned about the growing concentration of the media in our country and are pleased that the Commission is responding to public outcry to increase opportunities for local communities to use our radio airwaves.

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One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves, not merely to be the recipients of what a handful of other people tell them. It is a nonnegotiable component of our right to a free press and free speech.

Radio is perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well-suited to cover community issues and local culture. Unfortunately, over the past three years the U.S. radio broadcasting industry has experienced an unprecedented wave of consolidation and mergers. As a result, the electronic medium best suited to inexpensive, local programming has become arguably the most regimented and centralized of our major media. Even a multimillionaire would have trouble entering the radio broadcasting industry today, because economies of scale (permitted by deregulation) demand that a firm own numerous stations in several markets to be even remotely competitive. As for the person of average means, their lot is limited to being a passive consumer of an increasingly monopolistic industry that has less and less competitive pressure to heed the diverse, local needs of listeners. And, for poor people and others who are considered unimportant to the advertising community, radio increasingly has little to offer. Again, the great tragedy of this situation is that radio is the ideal medium to provide an accessible local service for democratic communications of interest and value to the entire population.

Awarding licenses for new low power FM radio stations would empower local communities with a new public forum to express its many voices, cultures, ideas, and needs. Low power radio stations would create much needed public fora for a variety of groups - including community activists, youth, ethnic and linguistic minorities, the religious community, local artists and cultural associations - and provide a forum for dialogue and debate about important local and public interest issues. These kinds of stations would strengthen community identity in urban neighborhoods, rural towns and other communities which are currently too small to win attention from "mainstream", profit-driven media.

The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power radio service would have wide public support. The tremendous demand for microradio is demonstrated by the emergence of a national Free Radio Movement, widespread civil disobedience, constitutional challenges of the Commission's aggressively enforced 21-year ban, as well as the proliferation of unlicensed community radio stations supported by local government, whose operators broadcast at the risk of financial losses, seizure of property, arrest, and in some cases, imprisonment.

In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their

communities. In support with the efforts of the Microradio Empowerment Coalition (mec@tao.ca) and Americans for Radio Diversity (ard@radparker.com), we urge you to legalize microradio in order to benefit non-commercial community groups whose interest in microradio is to communicate, to educate, and to inform, not to make money. We are confident you agree that broad citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

To support this vision, we urge you to legalize microradio with the following concerns in mind:

1. Microradio licenses should be awarded for non-commercial use only. The current radio spectrum is dominated by commercial media. LPFM licenses should go to non-commercial community groups who want to use radio to communicate with their neighbors, not make profit from them.
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Barbara Ehrenreich--Author

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Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist

Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

ORIGINAL

From: David Cabiling <cabiling@jhu.edu>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Wed, Jul 21, 1999 3:47 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by David Cabiling (cabiling@jhu.edu)
on Wednesday, July 21, 1999 at 14:47:16

comments: The establishment of low power FM radio is a great idea.

address: 116 W. University Parkway, APT 904

city: Baltimore

state: MD

zip: 21210

Submit: Send to FCC

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AUG 02 1999
EX PARTE OR LATE FILED
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